

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 296201

21
ORIGIN OC-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 /005 R

66011
DRAFTED BY:OC:P:CLOVETT
APPROVED BY:A:OC:WENAEHER
OC:P:JAPANCAMO

----- 129032
R 040423Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

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FOR FRDCO

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM BEIRUT DATED DECEMBER 2,
1976 SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO KARACHI, DAMASCUS IS REPEATED
TO YOU: QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BEIRUT 8688

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASEC, LE
SUBJECT: BEIRUT/DAMASCUS POUCH RUNS

1. RSO, ACCCOMPANIED BY ADMIN OFFICER, COMPLETED CLASSIFIED
POUCH EXCHANGE AT LEBANESE/SYRIAN BORDER (MASNAA) ON DEC 1
WITHOUT INCIDENT.

2. CONVOY CONSISTING OF TWO VEHICLES DEPARTED CHANCERY AT
0630 (BEIRUT TIME) AND PROCEEDED VIA BEIRUT/DAMASCUS
INTERNATIONAL HIGHWAY TO MASNAA. ALTHOUGH NO SNOW WAS
ENCOUNTERED, ICE WAS FOUND BEYOND SOFAR AND IN MANY AREAS
ALONG THE DESCENT INTO THE BEQAA. ON THE RETURN TRIP THE
ICE HAD MELTED WITH WATER REMAINING ON ROAD. AS WINTER
PROGRESSES, ROAD CONDITIONS BOUND TO DETERIORATE AND MAKE
ANY POUCH/PERSONNEL EXCHANGE CONVOYS POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS.

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PAGE 02 STATE 296201

POST THEREFORE PROPOSES THAT THE REOPENED BEIRUT AIRPORT NOW

BE USED FOR ALL PERSONNEL EXCHANGES/TRANSFERS (SEPTEL).

3. TO THE EXTENT THAT WEATHER CONDITIONS PERMIT, WE WILL CONTINUE TO USE OVERLAND ROUTE FOR CLASSIFIED POUCH EXCHANGES UNTIL MEA RESUMES OPERATIONAL FLIGHTS FROM FRANKFURT AND/OR SECURITY CONDITIONS PERMIT COURIER TRIPS TO BEIRUT.

4. DURING EXCHANGE, ADMIN OFFICER MET WITH DAMASCUS ADMIN OFFICER ROBERT AND NEA/EX MUNRO JONES TO DISCUSS SUBJECTS OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

5. AFTER POUCH EXCHANGE AND CONSULTATIONS WERE CONCLUDED, CONVOY DEPARTED MASNAA AT 0910 (BEIRUT TIME) AND RETURNED TO CHANCERY AT 1015 WITHOUT INCIDENT.

LANE UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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